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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

APRIL 17, 1950

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

L A T E N E W S

During the first week of February a cold wave marked by hail, rain, and snow did serious damage to agriculture in Israel, according to the American Embassy at Tel-Aviv. Some of the worst winter weather in 30 years caused all work to stop in citrus orchards for more than a week and port activities were paralyzed.

The heavy rains and frost, and snowstorms did damage in the coastal plain and even extended to the Jordan Valley and the Negev where the temperature rarely reaches the freezing point. Citrus fruit on the ground was destroyed and the remaining unharvested crop on the trees had to be picked quickly and shipped.

No tree damage because of the low temperatures is reported. However, the upper branches of some citrus trees collapsed under heavy loads of snow. This snow-breakage of trees probably will affect next year's citrus crop.

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Philippine copra stocks in the hands of crushers are abnormally low despite attractive prices to producers. Manila crushers are inadequately supplied with copra because of shipments directly from outports, diversion of coconuts to desiccated coconut manufacturers, civil disorder in several Luzon producing areas, and seasonally low production. Copra production is expected to improve materially after mid-year.

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Argentina has resumed flaxseed exports. According to trade information about 400,000 bushels of flaxseed were recently loaded for shipment to the United Kingdom. This is loaned against the quantities committed in the Anglo-Argentine agreement that calls for flaxseed shipments after July 1, 1950. The United Kingdom has also purchased 60,000 metric tons of linseed oil priced at £108 per ton (equivalent to 13.7 U.S. cents per pound).

(Continued on Page 376)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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REVIEW OF 1949 WORLD CORN CROP

World corn production in 1949-50 is estimated at 5,550 million bushels, according to the latest information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Though about 440 million bushels less than the record world outturn a year ago, this would be, with that exception, the largest world crop recorded. A crop of the size indicated would be 800 million bushels larger than the prewar average, 1935-39, because of the large increase in North America. Other continental totals are below average.

The current estimate is 130 million bushels less than the total expected at the time of the last survey. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, December 26, 1949.) The decline from earlier expectations occurred in forecasts for Southern Hemisphere countries, where drought has reduced yields considerably below earlier season prospects. Most of the decline is noted in the estimates for Argentina and the Union of South Africa. The corn harvest now under way in those countries was sharply reduced by drought, especially in Argentina.

The good outturn in North America was principally due to the near-record crop in the United States. That crop of 3,378 million bushels of corn for all purposes accounts for 60 percent of the estimated world total. Production showed a gain of 1,062 million bushels over the 1935-39 average despite a decline of about 6 million acres since that period. Per-acre yields show an increase of about 55 percent over the prewar period as a result of increasing proportions of high-yielding, hybrid varieties and improved cultural practices. The 1949 yield of 38.9 bushels per acre is second only to last year's record yield of 42.8 bushels and contrasts with the 1935-39 average of 25 bushels. Production in Mexico, the second largest producer of the area, was also considerably above average largely because of increased acreage, though yields were also slightly above average.

The corn crop in Europe, still estimated at 660 million bushels, is smaller than the 1948 harvest as well as below average. Average or slightly better than average yields were indicated for the Balkan countries, other than Rumania, and for Italy. These are the most important corn producers of the area. Yields in many of the other countries, however, especially France, Spain, and Portugal were reported considerably below average. The acreage planted for the 1949 crop was very slightly below average but was about a million acres above the total for last year.

The harvest in the Soviet Union is estimated at about 140 million bushels, compared with the 1935-39 average of 170 million bushels. The decline is attributed to reduced acreage, in large part, with acreage estimated to be only about 85 percent of the prewar average, and yields slightly less than average.

Production in Asia is estimated at 595 million bushels, compared with the prewar average of 610 million. Acreage, placed at 35.6 million acres was about 5 percent larger than average, but yields in the principal producing areas were slightly below average. The outturn in China, the largest

[illegible][illegible]

ASIA														
Turkey.....	1,098:	1,408:	1,322:	1,272:	1,446:	20.9 :	20.4 :	15.8 :	18.6 :	20.0 :	22,971:	28,661:	20,904:	23,621:
Burma.....	217.5/	212:	198:	198:	196:	7.6 5/	6.6 :	- :	- :	- :	1,640.5/	1,390:	- :	- :
China.....	12,000:	14,200:	12,296:	12,276:	12,300.5/	21.8 :	19.9 :	21.5 :	21.2 :	20.7 :	5,262,000:	282,600:	264,696:	255,220
Ceylon.....	3,720:	6,231:	- :	- :	- :	23.3 :	21.5 :	- :	- :	- :	86,866:	133,858:	- :	- :
French Indochina.....	1,053.5/	778:	- :	- :	- :	21.2 5/	14.6 :	- :	- :	- :	22,165.5/	13,188:	- :	- :
Indian Union 1/.....	5,826:	5,643:	7,777:	7,462:	7,500.5/	12.2 :	13.2 :	10.9 :	9.4 :	11.0 :	5/ 67,240:	74,204:	85,080:	70,480:
Pakistan 1/.....	811:	84:	979:	965:	1,003.5/	17.7 :	17.3 :	16.6 :	17.1 :	16.9 :	5/ 14,360:	15,204:	16,240:	16,930
Japan.....	128:	162:	128:	148:	150:	24.2 :	22.8 :	17.2 :	17.7 :	17.1 :	3,094:	3,700:	2,205:	2,91:
Korea.....	321:	375:	- :	- :	- 5/	13.0 :	12.0 :	- :	- :	- :	5/ 4,177:	4,500:	- :	- :
Java and Madura.....	5,150:	5,160:	- :	- :	2,140:	8.9 :	15.9 :	- :	- :	- :	79,976:	82,200:	- :	- :
Philippine Islands.....	1,165:	2,442:	2,007:	2,042:	2,140:	8.9 :	9.8 :	10.5 :	10.0 :	11.4 :	15,715:	23,967:	21,000:	20,432:
Estimated total 5/.....	33,920:	39,710:	38,530:	35,170:	35,650:	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	610,000:	695,000:	650,000:	585,000:
AFRICA														
Belgian Congo.....	179:	329:	600:	- :	- 5/	19.6 :	17.8 :	20.0 :	- :	- :	3,500:	5,860:	12,000:	- :
Kenya 5/.....	103:	102:	- :	- :	102:	30.3 :	24.0 :	- :	- :	- :	3,121:	2,453:	3,000:	4,000:
Basutoland.....	350:	360:	- :	- :	- :	8.1 :	7.5 :	- :	- :	- :	2,829:	2,709:	2,554:	- :
Egypt.....	1,599:	1,846:	1,669:	1,610:	1,550:	39.5 :	30.7 :	33.1 :	34.1 :	32.3 :	63,229:	56,685:	55,170:	54,917:
French Morocco.....	1,112:	1,251:	1,265:	1,351:	1,179:	7.6 :	7.9 :	7.9 :	9.8 :	11.0 :	8,895:	9,853:	10,039:	13,287:
French West Africa.....	1,732:	1,500:	- :	- :	- 5/	12.4 :	13.5 :	- :	- :	- :	5/ 21,473:	20,000:	- :	- :
Madagascar.....	260:	172:	- :	- :	- :	15.3 :	12.9 :	- :	- :	- :	3,969:	2,213:	- :	- :
Angola.....	1,475:	1,470:	- :	- :	- :	9.0 :	8.3 :	- :	- :	- :	12,859:	12,180:	12,000:	4,464:
Southern Rhodesia 5/.....	268:	243:	323:	215:	- :	22.1 :	21.1 :	21.1 :	20.8 :	- :	5,923:	5,116:	6,829:	- :
Union of South Africa.....	6,989:	7,657:	7,800:	6,103:	6,140:	11.5 :	9.4 :	13.8 :	11.8 :	11.7 :	80,132:	71,711:	106,000:	72,146:
Estimated total 5/.....	18,200:	19,280:	19,820:	18,140:	17,920:	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	255,000:	240,000:	230,000:	250,000:
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina.....	10,775:	8,176:	6,591:	6,500:	4,500:	28.0 :	31.7 :	35.8 :	27.7 :	17.8 :	301,966:	259,124:	236,207:	180,000:
Brazil.....	10,025:	10,208:	10,727:	10,872:	- :	21.5 :	20.3 :	20.5 :	20.0 :	- :	215,153:	207,438:	219,905:	217,000:
Chile.....	110:	126:	119:	115:	110:	22.7 :	20.7 :	24.5 :	22.2 :	22.9 :	2,496:	2,603:	2,921:	2,552:
Colombia.....	1,360:	1,440:	1,680:	- :	- 15/	15.1 :	16.0 :	14.6 :	- :	- :	19,511:	22,969:	24,500:	24,999:
Uruguay.....	425:	420:	337:	350:	- :	12.2 :	10.9 :	13.6 :	10.4 :	- :	5,188:	4,573:	5,371:	5,651:
Estimated total 5/.....	24,930:	22,540:	21,910:	22,150:	19,430:	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	575,000:	510,000:	425,000:	475,000:
OCEANIA														
Australia.....	314:	298:	223:	182:	225:	22.4 :	25.1 :	28.0 :	28.6 :	26.7 :	7,030:	7,482:	6,245:	5,199:
New Zealand.....	7:	8:	7:	7:	7:	45.4 :	51.8 :	54.0 :	51.0 :	50.0 :	318:	414:	378:	357:
Estimated total 5/.....	325:	310:	235:	195:	235:	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	7,500:	8,000:	6,700:	5,700:
Estimated world total 5/.....	220,420:	218,290:	215,040:	212,010:	211,280:	- :	- :	- :	- :	- :	4,750,000:	5,180,000:	4,820,000:	5,920,000:

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1949 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which began early in 1950. 2/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Estimates for reporting areas only. Allowances for non-reporting areas, not shown, are included in estimated total for Asia. 8/ Cultivation on European holdings only.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Preliminary estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

producer of the area, was placed at 255 million bushels, only slightly less than the 1935-39 average of 262 million bushels. Acreage was slightly above average but yields about a bushel per acre below average. Production in the Indian Union and Pakistan were above average because of larger plantings, as was also the case in Turkey. The harvest in the Philippines was somewhat above average as a result of expanded acreage and above-average yields.

The crop in Africa was estimated at 245 million bushels, which is slightly below average. Both acreage and yields were a little under average. In the Union of South Africa the harvest, now in progress, is expected to be about the same as last year's crop of 72 million bushels. Early-season prospects for an outturn larger than the 1935-39 average of 80 million bushels are not being realized, since drought during the critical earing stage cut yields substantially. Production in that country normally amounts to about 30 percent of the African total. In Egypt, the next country of importance in corn production for this area, yields were also reduced by unfavorable weather, and the outturn now is reported at about 50 million bushels, compared with the prewar average of 63 million.

The South American total output is now estimated at about 365 million bushels, 210 million bushels under the 1935-39 average. Reduced acreage and smaller yields account for the large decline. Most of the reduction took place in Argentina where acreage planted is believed to be the smallest recorded during the past 40 years, at least, and was only about 40 percent of the 1935-39 plantings. Widespread drought reduced yield prospects to the lowest point since 1942-43, when a similarly low yield resulted from severe drought conditions. If the outturn is as small as indicated, it would be less than domestic requirements of recent years, and little or no corn exports could be expected. Conditions were favorable in Brazil, normally the second largest corn producer of the area, and while no official estimate is available, the outturn there is reported to be one of the largest on record.

Corn is of little significance in Oceania. The current outturn is estimated to be about 6.5 million bushels, slightly below average. Acreage in Australia is reported to be somewhat below average but yields were better than average.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Robert L. Gastineau, Judith E. Downey, Olav F. Anderson and Dwight R. Bishop.

RECORD APPLE AND PEAR CROPS IN 1949

World production of apples in 1949, now estimated at 531.1 million bushels, is 26 percent above the 420.3 million produced in 1948 and 7 percent higher than the prewar (1935-39) average production of 498.5. Pear production, estimated at 163.6 million bushels, is 42 percent above the 1948 crop of 115.2 million bushels, and 25 percent above the prewar average of 130.8 million.

The United States 1949 commercial crop of 133.2 million bushels of apples, 51 percent above the 1948 production of 88.4 million, is the largest crop since 1939 when the harvest totaled 139.2 million bushels. Pear production in the United States reached a record high of 36.6 million bushels, 39 percent above the 1948 crop of 26.3 million and 28 percent higher than the prewar crop of 28.7 million. The Canadian apple crop of 17.5 million is 4.1 million bushels greater than the 1948 crop of 13.4 million and 3.0 million larger than the prewar average of 14.6 million. The 1949 crop was exceeded only in 1946. The final size of the crop was the result of a particularly good crop year and an extended growing season which filled out the fruit to excellent size. The pear crop of 1,018 thousand bushels, compares with 789 thousand for 1948 and 569 thousand prewar. The revised estimate of apples in Mexico is the result of an upward revision made in the States of Durango, Zacatecas and Puebla.

European apple production (including apples for cider), estimated at 330.7 million bushels, is 22 percent above the 1948 crop of 270.9 million and 3 percent above the prewar average of 321.7 million; but the apple crop, excluding those used for cider, estimated at 209.3 million bushels, is only 11 percent above the 1948 crop of 189.2 million and 33 percent higher than the prewar average of 158.0 million bushels. Total pear production now indicated at 108.7 million bushels, is 54 percent above the 1948 crop of 70.4 million and 30 percent above the prewar average of 83.5 million. Pear production, excluding those used for cider, is indicated to be 90.7 million bushels, 54 percent above the previous year's crop of 59.0 million and 47 percent higher than the prewar average of 61.5 million.

Apple and pear production both increased sharply in Belgium, France, Germany and Italy. The apple crop in Belgium was a record one, the indicated production in 1949 being 18.4 million bushels, compared with 3.2 million for 1948 and 5.4 million prewar. Pear production in Belgium for 1949 was also a record crop, indicated to be 11.0 million bushels, as compared with 1.3 million for the preceding crop and 2.0 million prewar. Dessert and cooking apples and pears in France both show an increase in production for 1949 over 1948 with an estimated production of 16.7 and 6.2 million bushels respectively. This is an increase of 24 and 33 percent over the previous year's crop of 13.4 and 4.6 million bushels and 59 and 250 percent respectively over the prewar averages of 10.5 and 1.8 million bushels. Production of apples for cider in France, indicated at 113.4 million bushels, is about 41 million bushels more than in 1948 but 41 million less than prewar;

APPLES: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1946-49

Continent and country	Average		1946	1947	1948	1949 ^{1/}
	1935-39	1940-44				
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada.....	14,560	13,459	19,282	15,619	13,401	17,547
Mexico ^{2/}	1,725	2,562	2,918	2,836	2,808	2,985
United States.....	127,311	113,787	119,410	113,011	88,407	133,181
Total.....	143,596	129,808	141,610	131,496	104,619	153,713
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert and cooking.....	7,095	4,624	18,601	6,200	10,242	6,889
Cider.....	6,291	4,101	9,847	2,420	5,374	3,674
Belgium.....	5,435	6,103	2,296	13,779	3,215	18,372
Bulgaria.....	1,117	3,617	2,677	1,766	1,500	2,000
Czechoslovakia.....	6,931	3,362	9,619	9,466	12,242	10,775
Denmark.....	2,818	4,593	7,440	6,889	11,482	7,578
Finland.....	1,023	1,187	1,817	1,708	1,500	2,250
France:						
Dessert and cooking.....	10,499	9,724	13,103	16,110	13,411	16,695
Cider.....	153,973	114,570	71,059	72,250	72,323	113,449
Germany:						
Western Zone.....	36,116	34,099	15,441	38,682	24,214	27,902
Eastern Zone.....	10,788	7,676	3,440	8,618	5,395	6,208
Greece.....	374	564	965	1,291	1,405	1,539
Hungary.....	2,445	1,148	919	1,415	2,067	3,123
Italy.....	12,923	14,792	13,565	22,023	17,379	30,919
Luxembourg:						
Dessert and cooking.....	193	296	428	427	300	500
Cider.....	93	83	52	49	25	50
Netherlands.....	3,631	4,048	4,774	9,967	7,211	11,482
Norway.....	1,080	798	1,496	1,188	1,654	501
Poland and Danzig.....	8,200	6,600	8,500	8,300	6,900	7,300
Rumania.....	3,255	3,754	4,134	2,722	2,296	4,500
Spain.....	5,411	6,603	4,646	2,500	3,996	4,134
Sweden.....	4,770	3,809	4,960	5,603	8,038	6,798
Switzerland.....	16,452	25,353	29,854	17,453	29,854	11,942
United Kingdom:						
Dessert and cooking.....	10,597	13,831	16,717	28,877	19,927	21,920
Cider.....	3,427	3,256	5,133	4,951	3,948	4,200
Yugoslavia.....	7,098	9,187	8,911	7,895	5,000	6,000
Total.....	321,735	287,778	260,394	292,549	270,898	330,700
Total (excluding cider).....	157,951	165,768	174,303	212,579	189,228	209,327
ASIA						
Lebanon..... ^{3/}	104	260	643	597	597	758
Palestine.....	65	118	231	240	200	250
Syria.....	4	84	260	257	257	260
Turkey.....	5,149	3,676	4,452	2,709	4,528	5,191
Japan.....	7,624	10,372	4,180	7,073	13,962	15,500
Korea.....	3,220	5,501	3,214	2,378	3,200	2,000
Total.....	16,162	20,011	12,980	13,254	22,744	23,959
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina.....	1,400	6,135	7,173	4,400	8,900	7,300
Chile.....	1,025	591	900	827	877	852
Total.....	2,425	6,726	8,073	5,227	9,777	8,152
AFRICA						
Tunisia.....	115	136	184	207	175	200
Union of South Africa.....	1,142	1,125	1,000	1,000	1,250	1,312
Total.....	1,257	1,261	1,184	1,207	1,425	1,512
OCEANIA						
Australia.....	10,435	11,741	10,293	14,292	8,009	10,000
New Zealand.....	2,875	2,373	1,933	3,240	2,853	3,041
Total.....	13,310	14,114	12,226	17,532	10,862	13,041
World total.....	498,485	459,698	436,467	461,265	420,325	531,077
World total (excluding cider).....	334,701	337,688	350,376	381,595	338,655	409,704

Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 48 pounds. ^{1/} Preliminary.

^{2/} Includes an estimated increase of 71 percent due to a revised estimate of the red-apple crop. ^{3/} Includes Syria. ^{4/} Included with Lebanon.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information, and on the basis of postwar boundaries. Harvests in Northern Hemisphere countries are for the year shown and are combined with the harvest in Southern Hemisphere countries of the following year.

PEARS: Production in specified countries, averages 1935-39
and 1940-44, annual 1946-49

Continent and country	Average		1946	1947	1948	1949 ^{1/}
	1935-39	1940-44				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada.....	569:	733:	951:	966:	789:	1,018
Mexico.....	331:	508:	523:	598:	629:	629
United States.....	28,693:	28,908:	34,447:	35,312:	26,334:	36,627
Total.....	29,593:	30,149:	35,921:	36,876:	27,752:	38,274
EUROPE						
Austria.....	6,366:	4,691:	9,714:	8,342:	6,614:	8,157
Belgium.....	2,026:	3,172:	1,323:	6,614:	1,323:	11,023
Bulgaria.....	631:	1,647:	2,600:	2,000:	1,500:	2,000
Czechoslovakia.....	4,070:	1,619:	3,635:	3,579:	4,123:	4,037
Denmark.....	480:	776:	926:	882:	961:	1,054
France:						
Dessert and cooking.....	1,760:	3,051:	5,928:	6,534:	4,630:	6,155
Cider.....	21,776:	12,453:	11,105:	11,291:	11,303:	17,730
Germany:						
Western Zone.....	11,891:	12,469:	6,830:	13,091:	6,036:	12,033
Eastern Zone.....	3,964:	2,794:	1,534:	2,943:	1,355:	2,699
Greece.....	878:	1,014:	1,168:	1,221:	988:	1,675
Hungary.....	742:	500:	353:	794:	353:	882
Italy.....	8,859:	9,531:	10,642:	11,063:	9,316:	14,891
Luxembourg.....	100:	208:	277:	277:	200:	300
Netherlands.....	1,570:	2,469:	2,741:	5,983:	2,998:	5,731
Norway.....	174:	137:	298:	121:	297:	93
Poland and Danzig.....	2,200:	1,900:	1,800:	2,400:	2,000:	2,200
Rumania.....	1,103:	1,207:	1,330:	547:	441:	550
Spain.....	3,057:	2,805:	2,232:	2,000:	1,905:	1,896
Sweden.....	1,063:	771:	1,323:	794:	794:	1,102
Switzerland.....	7,037:	12,654:	14,109:	16,755:	9,259:	9,259
United Kingdom:						
Dessert and cooking.....	782:	1,338:	1,080:	1,734:	1,434:	1,926
Cider.....	237:	349:	430:	332:	99:	350
Yugoslavia.....	2,773:	4,588:	3,263:	3,088:	2,500:	3,000
Total.....	83,539:	82,143:	84,641:	102,385:	70,429:	108,743
Total (excluding cider)....	61,526:	69,341:	73,106:	90,762:	59,027:	90,663
ASIA						
Lebanon..... ^{2/}	24:	72:	331:	265:	265:	331
Palestine.....	16:	10:	16:	10:	10:	10
Syria..... ^{3/}	25:	66:	58:	40:	40:	40
Turkey.....	3,315:	2,776:	2,808:	1,922:	2,608:	3,870
Japan.....	7,366:	6,607:	2,161:	2,337:	2,910:	3,500
Korea.....	775:	1,204:	1,700:	1,850:	2,000:	900
Total.....	11,496:	10,694:	7,082:	6,442:	7,833:	8,651
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina.....	2,443:	5,332:	4,725:	3,300:	5,100:	3,500
Chile.....	88:	58:	110:	100:	105:	100
Total.....	2,531:	5,390:	4,835:	3,400:	5,205:	3,600
AFRICA						
Tunisia.....	53:	45:	71:	62:	70:	70
Union of South Africa.....	832:	675:	600:	800:	540:	700
Total.....	885:	720:	671:	862:	610:	770
OCEANIA						
Australia.....	2,467:	2,714:	3,607:	3,240:	2,950:	3,200
New Zealand.....	328:	347:	287:	444:	461:	367
Total.....	2,795:	3,061:	3,894:	3,684:	3,411:	3,567
World total.....	130,839:	132,157:	137,044:	153,649:	115,240:	163,605
World total (excluding cider)....	108,826:	119,355:	125,509:	142,026:	103,838:	145,525
Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 50 pounds. ^{1/} Preliminary.						
^{2/} Includes Syria. ^{3/} Included with Lebanon.						

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information, and on the basis of postwar boundaries. Harvests in Northern Hemisphere countries are for the year shown and are combined with the harvest in Southern Hemisphere countries of the following year.

APPLES: International trade, averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1945-48

Continent and country	Average				1945				1946				1947				1948			
	1935-39		1940-44		Exports		Imports		Exports		Imports		Exports		Imports		Exports		Imports	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
<u>Exporting Countries</u>																				
Canada.....	6,404:	225:	1,755:	122:	1,717:	27:	4,731:	232:	4,731:	232:	4,731:	232:	3,414:	400:	3,414:	400:	2,265:	60		
United States.....	9,730:	27:	894:	597:	1,456:	732:	2,864:	1,038:	2,864:	1,038:	2,864:	1,038:	4,553:	1,211:	4,553:	1,211:	2,138:	1,324		
United States 1/.....	149:	0:	168:	0:	163:	0:	147:	0:	147:	0:	147:	0:	182:	0:	182:	0:	54:	0		
Bulgaria.....	296:	0:	53:	0:	0:	0:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	
Denmark.....	44:	105:	229:	3:	74:	0:	209:	85:	209:	85:	209:	85:	311:	0:	311:	0:	941:	0		
France:																				
Table.....	393:	1,425:	333:	68:	12:	295:	50:	561:	217:	561:	217:	561:	217:	168:	168:	168:	109:	593		
Cider.....	1,892:	1:	1,651:	2/:	2/:	150:	2/:	116:	126:	116:	126:	116:	126:	8:	8:	8:	311:	0		
Greece.....	14:	66:	2/:	0:	0:	0:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	
Hungary.....	195:	0:	199:	0:	0:	0:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	
Italy.....	2,420:	0:	2,479:	0:	463:	0:	768:	0:	768:	0:	768:	0:	2,774:	0:	2,774:	0:	2,604:	0		
Netherlands.....	539:	790:	917:	146:	0:	2/:	79:	11:	79:	11:	79:	11:	218:	176:	218:	176:	210:	879		
Portugal.....	4/	0:	3:	0:	2/:	0:	1:	0:	1:	0:	1:	0:	1:	0:	1:	0:	1:	0		
Romania.....	6:	0:	2/:	0:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	71:	0:	71:	0:	-:	-:		
Spain.....	4/	25:	16:	0:	39:	0:	14:	0:	14:	0:	14:	0:	25:	0:	25:	0:	27:	0		
Switzerland 5/:																				
Table.....	948:4/	931:	932:	138:	110:	987:	1,893:	231:	1,893:	231:	1,893:	231:	930:	466:	930:	466:	2,664:	227		
Cider.....	381:4/	438:	223:	14:	2/:	436:	180:	2:	180:	2:	180:	2:	114:	1:	114:	1:	1,092:	2/		
Yugoslavia.....	1,095:4/	2:	6/:	6/:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	329:	-:	329:	-:	-:	-:		
Syria and Lebanon 1/.....	55:	9:	23:	1:	157:	2/:	114:	2:	114:	2:	114:	2:	272:	6:	272:	6:	44:	2		
Turkey.....	55:	0:	8:	0:	82:	0:	165:	0:	165:	0:	165:	0:	54:	0:	54:	0:	9:	0		
Japan.....	181:	0:	272:	0:	37:	0:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	
Korea (Chosen).....	359:	0:	773:	0:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	-:	
Korea (Chosen) g/.....	463:	0:	434:	32:	818:	0:	1,105:	0:	1,105:	0:	1,105:	0:	885:	0:	885:	0:	367:	0		
Argentina.....	255:	134:	275:	0:	133:	0:	301:	0:	301:	0:	301:	0:	260:	0:	260:	0:	117:	0		
Chile.....	525:	0:	142:	0:	135:	0:	141:	0:	141:	0:	141:	0:	-:	0:	-:	0:	141:	0		
Union of South Africa.....	274:	59:	218:	9:	146:	0:	1,455:	0:	1,455:	0:	1,455:	0:	807:	0:	807:	0:	2,933:	0		
Australia 10/.....	4,017:	0:	92:	0:	3:	2/:	253:	2/:	253:	2/:	253:	2/:	5:	0:	5:	0:	819:	0		
New Zealand.....	893:	4:	103:	0:	5,545:	2,627:	14,470:	2,278:	14,470:	2,278:	14,470:	2,278:	15,602:	2,436:	15,602:	2,436:	16,861:	3,085		
Total.....	31,614:	4,212:	12,192:	1,130:	5,545:	2,627:	14,470:	2,278:	14,470:	2,278:	14,470:	2,278:	15,602:	2,436:	15,602:	2,436:	16,861:	3,085		

Continent and country	Average				1945				1946				1947				1948			
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports		
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		
Exporting Countries																				
United States.....	2,645	42	313	207	936	235	1,588	343	1,902	148	1,902	148	1,902	148	1,902	148	1,000	32		
Belgium.....	238	176	35	9	329	0	3	121	1,341	48	1,341	48	1,341	48	1,341	48	273	273		
Czechoslovakia.....	223	15	-	-	-	-	62	1	58	48	58	48	58	48	58	48	-	-		
Italy.....	1,164	0	869	0	-	-	1,742	0	1,742	0	1,742	0	1,742	0	1,742	0	0	0		
Netherlands.....	94	147	201	12	-	-	286	1	749	99	749	99	749	99	749	99	18	18		
China.....	214	0	74	3	3	-	47	-	71	-	71	-	71	-	71	-	-	-		
Argentina.....	650	1	463	0	629	0	1,057	0	818	0	818	0	818	0	818	0	0	0		
Chile.....	21	0	11	0	8	0	11	0	21	0	21	0	21	0	21	0	0	0		
Union of South Africa..	682	0	134	0	105	0	110	0	259	0	259	0	259	0	259	0	0	0		
Australia 5/.....	568	0	3	0	1/	0	42	0	161	0	161	0	161	0	161	0	360	0		
New Zealand.....	72	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	18	0		
Total.....	6,571	381	2,103	228	2,007	235	4,948	465	6,554	343	6,554	343	6,554	343	6,554	343	5,156	323		
Importing Countries																				
Canada.....	6/	394	6/	200	6/	659	5	390	4	427	0	427	0	427	0	427	2	0		
Mexico.....	0	8	0	14	0	33	0	36	0	32	0	32	0	32	0	32	0	3		
Panama, Republic of....	0	9	0	11	0	9	0	5	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	5		
Cuba.....	0	25	0	24	0	37	0	46	0	56	0	56	0	56	0	56	0	51		
Austria.....	1/	257	g/	g/	-	-	-	-	-	129	-	129	-	129	-	129	-	155		
Denmark.....	1/	15	3	2	0	0	0	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	1/	0	0	0		
Finland.....	1/	55	-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
France.....	42	464	265	19	109	176	21	21	106	2	106	2	106	2	106	2	27	3		
Germany.....	1	828	0	422	-	-	-	11	-	61	-	61	-	61	-	61	0	124		
Sweden.....	1/	337	1/	86	0	92	0	563	0	381	0	381	0	381	0	381	0	206		
United Kingdom 9/.....	0	2,582	0	128	0	4	0	2,053	0	4,689	0	4,689	0	4,689	0	4,689	0	3,429		
Ireland (Eire).....	0	70	0	3/	0	3/	0	3/	0	34	0	34	0	34	0	34	0	44		
Philippines, Rep. of...	-	11	-	10	-	3/	-	3	-	8	-	8	-	8	-	8	11	11		
Palestine.....	0	25	0	2	0	11	0	280	0	641	0	641	0	641	0	641	0	24		
Hong Kong.....	0	121	0	57	0	0	0	43	0	61	0	61	0	61	0	61	0	0		
Kwantung.....	0	76	0	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
Brazil.....	0	246	0	261	0	429	0	603	0	470	0	470	0	470	0	470	0	568		
Egypt.....	1/	62	0	5	0	1/	0	5	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	2		
French Morocco.....	1/	9	1/	1	1/	1	1/	1	1/	5	1/	5	1/	5	1/	5	-	-		
Total.....	44	5,594	268	1,272	109	1,451	26	4,064	110	7,023	30	7,023	30	7,023	30	7,023	30	4,626		
Grand total.....	6,614	5,975	2,371	1,500	2,116	1,686	4,974	4,529	6,604	7,366	5,186	7,366	5,186	7,366	5,186	7,366	5,186	4,949		
1/ Less than 500 bushels. 2/ Eight months. 3/ Not available. 4/ Nine months. 5/ Crop year. 6/ Reported in value only. 7/ Less than 5 years. 8/ Included with Germany. 9/ Re-exports deducted.																				

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Trade statistics on pears for Norway, Switzerland and Indo China included with apples.

1/ Less than 500 bushels. 2/ Eight months. 3/ Not available. 4/ Nine months. 5/ Crop year. 6/ Reported in value only. 7/ Less than 5 years. 8/ Included with Germany. 9/ Re-exports deducted.

pear production for cider, indicated at 17.7 million bushels, is an increase of nearly 6.4 million bushels over the 1948 crop of 11.3 million but is also a decrease of 4.0 million from the prewar average of 21.8 million. This increase in production for 1949 can be attributed to some extent to the cumulative effect of the better care which has been given many plantings in recent years, particularly more adequate spraying and wider use of fertilizers. The apple and pear crops in Germany both were larger in 1949 than in 1948. The apple crop, indicated to be 34.1 million bushels, is 15 percent above the 1948 output of 29.6 million and 18 percent below the 41.8 million produced during the 1940-44 period. Pear production, indicated to be 14.7 million bushels, is about double the 1948 crop of 7.4 million and one-half million less than produced during the 1940-44 period. Apple production in Italy in 1949 was the highest on record and was the result mainly of new planting in the Ferrara and Ravenna areas during 1942 and 1943. These plantings, made in specialized fruit orchards where most modern cultivation techniques are applied, came into bearing in 1949. Apple production estimated at 30.9 million bushels and pear production, at 14.9 million, compare with 17.4 and 9.3 million for 1948 and 12.9 and 8.9 million respectively, prewar. The Netherlands crop of apples is the largest since 1935 and was due to increased plantings, favorable weather and improved production practices in the principal producing areas. Czechoslovakia's production of apples and pears, indicated to be 10.8 and 4.0 million bushels respectively, are both lower than the 1948 crop. This was partly due to insufficient subsoil moisture and lack of rain in the summer and fall. The apple crop in Switzerland was very poor due to prolonged drought. The current crop is estimated at 11.9 million bushels, 60 percent below the 1948 crop of 29.9 million bushels and 27 percent lower than the prewar average of 16.5 million. The pear crop in Switzerland, estimated at 9.3 million bushels, is about normal. Apple and pear production in Norway in 1949 was about one-third of the 1948 crop.

In Asia, production of apples is indicated to be 24.0 million bushels, 5 percent above the 1948 crop of 22.7 million and 48 percent above the prewar average of 16.2 million. Total pear production is estimated at 8.7 million bushels for 1949 as compared with 7.8 million for 1948 and 11.5 million prewar. Yield of apples in Argentina, estimated at 7.3 million bushels, is slightly below the 1948 crop of 8.9 million but more than 5 times the amount produced prewar. The reduced yield was the result of October frosts in the Rio Negro Valley and damage from drought in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Santa Fe. Pear production in Argentina is indicated to be 3.5 million bushels, 31 percent below the 1948 crop of 5.1 million but 43 percent above the prewar average of 2.4 million. The reduced yield was principally the result of frost damage. A slightly smaller yield of apples and pears in Chile is accounted for chiefly by weather conditions which resulted in scarcity of irrigation water and natural soil moisture during the growing period. The quality of the fruit was very good. Indications point to a larger crop of both apples and pears in Australia. The apple crop in New Zealand, estimated at 3.0 million bushels, is 7 percent above the 1948 crop of 2.9 million and 6 percent higher than the prewar average.

Pear production, estimated at 367,000 bushels, compares with 461,000 for the previous season and 328,000 prewar.

FOREIGN TRADE

Apples

Exports of apples from the principal exporting countries of the world amounted to 16.9 million bushels in 1948, of which Canada, the United States, Italy, Switzerland and Australia exported 81 percent. Imports into the principal importing countries during the same period amounted to 15.9 million bushels, of which Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Philippine Republic took 60 percent. Canada exported principally to the United States (1,546,000 bushels), Brazil (276,000) and Newfoundland and Labrador (132,000). Exports from the United States totalled 2.1 million bushels for 1948, the principal destinations being the Philippine Republic, Cuba, Sweden, Venezuela, Hong Kong and Mexico. Italy exported 2.6 million bushels of apples during 1948, of which the United Kingdom bought 847,000; Germany, 496,000; Belgium, 366,000; Czechoslovakia, 263,000; Austria, 196,000; Palestine, 119,000; and Sweden, 67,000. Small amounts went to other countries. Exports of apples (including pears) for the table from Switzerland, amounted in 1948 to 2.7 million bushels, nearly 3 times the amount exported during 1947. Of this 1948 total export, Belgium and Germany took 1,267,000 and 604,000 bushels respectively or 70 percent. Exports of apples (including pears) for cider amounted to 1.1 million bushels of which Germany took 76 percent or 832,000 bushels. Australia exported 2.9 million bushels during the year ended June 30, 1948, chiefly to the United Kingdom (2.2 million bushels). The greater part of Belgium's import of apples came from Switzerland. Germany's total imports in 1948, of 2.2 million bushels were supplied chiefly by Switzerland, Italy and Denmark. The total import for the United Kingdom during 1948 amounted to 4.6 million bushels, of which Australia supplied 2,588,000 bushels; New Zealand, 834,000; Belgium, 312,000 and other countries smaller quantities. The Philippine Republic obtained 98 percent of its imported apples from the United States.

Pears

Exports of pears from the principal exporting countries of the world amounted in 1948 to 5.2 million bushels, of which about 50 percent were exported from Italy. Total imports amounted to 5.0 million bushels, of which the United Kingdom imported 69 percent. The United Kingdom supplies, amounting to 3.4 million bushels, were imported chiefly from Italy, the Netherlands, the Union of South Africa and small amounts from other countries.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Gustave Burmeister, Ruth G. Tucker, Dr. Montell Ogdon, L.J. Schaben, and Karen J. Friedmann.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNEL EXPORTS APPROXIMATE PREWAR LEVEL 1/

Palm oil and palm kernel exports during 1949 from the principal producing areas of the world showed marked increases over 1948 and approximated the prewar level, according to information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Oil exports were still slightly less than before the war, but kernel exports exceeded that period by a small margin.

PALM OIL: Exports from principal producing countries,
average 1935-39, annual 1946-49

(Short tons)

Country	: Average : : 1935-39 :	: 1946 :	: 1947 :	: 1948 :	: 1949 1/
Africa:	:	:	:	:	:
British:	:	:	:	:	:
Nigeria.....	153,980	112,990	141,068	143,472	179,200
Sierra Leone.....	1,943	120	713	2,480	2,800
Gold Coast.....	549	185	205	400	-
French:	:	:	:	:	:
Equatorial Africa....	6,314	1,490	2,948	2,633	4,400
Cameroons.....	9,754	1,711	1,128	2,592	7,000
Dahomey.....	2/21,106	628	783	10,978	(
Guinea.....	2/ 240	0	0	0	3/11,000
Ivory Coast.....	2/ 3,285	151	2	944	(
Togo.....	1,842	10	851	904	600
Portuguese:	:	:	:	:	:
Angola.....	3,254	16,716	13,646	9,372	12,700
Guinea.....	950	1,200	1,069	760	-
Belgian Congo.....	72,450	96,658	93,624	121,680	135,000
Liberia.....	1,160	495	1,237	3,254	-
Total Africa.....	276,827	232,354	257,274	299,469	358,000
Malaya, Federation of....	47,360	9,312	50,771	54,668	61,882
Indonesia.....	212,685	0	1,728	43,990	112,281
Total.....	536,872	241,666	309,773	398,127	532,163

1/ Preliminary estimate.

2/ Average 1934-38.

3/ Total French West Africa; colony distribution not available.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information.

1/ The palm oil and palm kernel situation is reviewed here in terms of exports, rather than production, because of more complete data regarding exports. A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Palm Oil

Palm oil exports from the major producing countries are estimated at 532,163 short tons in 1949, an increase of 34 percent over 1948 and only 1 percent less than the 1935-39 average. The most significant increase over 1948 occurred in Indonesia, the largest prewar exporting country, where shipments more than doubled those of the previous year. Sizeable increases also occurred in the Belgian Congo, Nigeria, the Federation of Malaya, Angola, the French Cameroons, and French Equatorial Africa.

PALM KERNELS: Exports from principal producing countries,
average 1935-39, annual 1946-49

(Short tons)

Country	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948	1949 1/
Africa:					
British					
Nigeria.....	369,292	310,512	354,453	368,200	394,240
Sierra Leone.....	83,775	52,600	68,590	74,403	84,000
Gold Coast.....	7,287	6,667	4,106	7,840	-
Gambia.....	776	1,212	1,344	1,390	1,400
French					
Equatorial Africa....	14,283	8,392	10,240	8,337	10,500
Cameroons.....	39,470	28,791	28,578	33,212	35,000
Dahomey.....	2/ 56,700	24,300	28,344	36,426	(
Guinea.....	2/ 17,500	8,646	13,439	20,570	3/ (95,000
Ivory Coast.....	2/ 10,300	4,612	5,512	12,148	(
Senegal.....	2/ 2,700	1,429	1,122	1,450	(
Togo.....	13,775	3,151	5,137	8,941	5,900
Portuguese					
Angola.....	6,678	14,309	15,375	9,798	12,800
Guinea.....	13,400	14,560	16,247	13,361	-
Belgian Congo.....	94,002	57,170	53,310	91,904	88,220
Liberia.....	10,130	974	3,939	19,671	-
Total Africa....	740,768	537,325	609,736	707,651	770,060
Malaya, Federation of....	8,132	175	5,874	7,249	9,793
Indonesia.....	44,134	-	1,758	12,212	31,585
Total.....	793,034	537,500	617,368	727,112	811,438

1/ Preliminary estimate.

2/ Average 1934-38.

3/ Total French West Africa; colony distribution not available.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information.

Approximately one-third of the palm oil entering international trade and about one-half the volume exported from Africa normally originates in Nigeria. In 1949 palm oil exports attained a record of 179,200 tons, 25 percent greater than in 1948 and 16 percent greater than the prewar average. The total quantity went to the United Kingdom.

Production and exports during 1950 are expected to continue the steady increase of the past few years. The emphasis of the Nigerian Palm Produce Marketing Board, which was established in March 1949, has been directed toward increasing the quality of the oil exported. Both the quantity and the quality of Nigerian palm oil may be expected to improve with favorable prices and the continued expansion in the use of mechanized equipment.

The Belgian Congo's 1949 palm oil exports appear to have exceeded the previous record established in 1948. A preliminary estimate places 1949 shipments at 135,000 tons, an increase of 10 percent over 1948 and 86 percent over the 1935-39 average. In addition, shipments of palm kernel oil possibly exceeded the 1948 figure of 19,400 tons. As in previous years, the largest tonnage in 1949 went to Belgium and to the United States, but unlike earlier years, Western Germany became the third largest importer.

Production is steadily expanding in the Congo. Activities of the Huileries du Congo Belge, one of the principal producing companies, recently have emphasized measures to assure a larger continuous yield from the native palms within its concessions, with less relative importance given to clearing ground for new plantations. In any case the rate of expansion of palm oil plantations does not appear to have been as rapid as it was in the immediate postwar period.

Palm oil exports from French West Africa are estimated at 11,000 tons. This represents a slight decrease from the 11,900 tons of the previous year and less than one-half the prewar tonnage. Prospects for future production are encouraging. The French West African Department of Agriculture is endeavoring to increase the industry's output by improving varieties, by better cultivation and extraction methods, and by the developments of transportation and marketing facilities.

Angola's palm oil exports during the past year are estimated at 12,700 tons, 35 percent more than 1948 shipments and over 3 times the 1935-39 average. Exports from the remaining African countries totaled 20,100 tons in 1949, considerably more than the 13,000 tons exported in 1948 but slightly less than the 22,500-ton prewar average.

Indonesian palm oil exports of 112,281 tons during 1949 were the highest since before the war, when shipments averaged 212,685 tons, and represented an increase of 155 percent over 1948 shipments. Approximately 60 percent of the 1949 exports went to The Netherlands, 20 percent to the United Kingdom, and 10 percent to the United States.

Recovery of the palm industry in Indonesia after World War II has lagged because of civil and military disturbances. With improved conditions, production during the last half of 1949 showed marked progress bringing total production for the year to 130,700 tons or roughly double that of 1948. Should order and stability prevail in the producing areas, new capital expenditures and the movement of labor from Java may result in an output of approximately 170,000 tons in 1950.

The Federation of Malaya exported 61,882 tons of palm oil in 1949, 13 percent more than in 1948 and 30 percent more than prewar. Almost 98 percent of the total went to the United Kingdom.

Rehabilitation of the existing palm oil estates has now been completed. Production during the past year is reported at 55,700 tons compared with about 50,000 in 1948 and almost 64,000 in 1940. This year's output is expected to be 3 to 5 percent above 1949 production. Total exports for the years 1950-52 have been contracted for by the British Ministry of Food.

Palm Kernels

World exports of palm kernels in 1949 are estimated at 811,438 tons, up 12 percent over 1948 and 2 percent over prewar. Almost 95 percent of the total originated in Africa and the remainder in Indonesia and the Federation of Malaya.

Approximately 80 percent of the African kernel exports normally are supplied by Nigeria, the Belgian Congo, French West Africa and Sierra Leone. Nigeria alone, where practically all of the production is from wild palms, usually accounts for 50 percent.

In 1949, Nigeria exported 394,240 tons of palm kernels. This is the largest tonnage on record from this colony, exceeding both 1948 and the prewar average by 7 percent. Total exports of kernels - as of oil - went to the United Kingdom.

The Belgian Congo reported exports of 88,220 tons of kernels in 1949, 4 percent less than in the previous year and 6 percent less than the 1935-39 average. The major portion of the 1949 shipments went to Belgium and Germany.

About 95,000 tons of kernels are estimated to have been exported from French West Africa the past year or about 35 percent more than in 1948. Shipments from Sierra Leone were reported at 84,000 tons, representing a 13 percent increase over 1948 and a very slight (less than 1 percent) increase over the 1935-39 average. It is believed that the quantity of palm kernels available for export from this colony eventually can be increased to 112,000 tons annually; postwar yearly increases indicate that this goal may well be attained if the present high price can be maintained.

Palm kernel shipments from Angola in 1949 amounted to 12,800 tons, 30 percent more than in 1948 and 92 percent more than prewar. The remaining African exporting countries shipped about 95,800 tons in 1949, a slight increase over 1948 but somewhat less than prewar.

Indonesian palm recovery brought about significant expansion in kernel as well as oil exports. Recorded shipments for 1949 amounted to 31,585 tons, an increase of almost 160 percent over 1948. Prewar exports averaged over 44,000. The Federation of Malaya exported 9,793 tons of kernels in 1949, or 35 percent more than in the previous year and 20 percent over prewar.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production, approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Paul E. Quintus, Olav F. Anderson, Regina H. Boyle, Helen Francis, Lois B. Bacon, and Charles H. Barber.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

DOMINICAN TOBACCO ACREAGE SMALLER; EXPORTS INCREASE

The acreage planted to tobacco in the Dominican Republic in 1949-50 is estimated at 40 percent below 1948-49, according to the American Embassy in Ciudad Trujillo. Exports of leaf in 1949 were 51 percent above the 1948 level.

As of January 31, 1950, the area planted to tobacco in commercial areas was reported by the Dominican Department of Agriculture at 30,502 acres, compared with 51,011 acres on the same date in 1949. The acreage planted up to January 31, 1949, represented 94 percent of the total acreage harvested in 1948-49. The decline in the acreage planted to tobacco in 1949-50 is due to excessive rainfall during the planting season and to the belief that the outlook for exports is less favorable than in 1949. On the basis of the planted acreage the 1949-50 commercial crop is expected to total approximately 30.0 million pounds, compared with 43.7 million pounds in 1948-49.

Exports of leaf during 1949 totaled 46.2 million pounds. This compares with 30.5 million in 1948, 32.9 million in 1947 and the record 1946 exports of 62.5 million pounds. During 1949 the most important outlets for Dominican leaf were Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium. These countries took 26.1 million pounds, 7.5 million pounds and 6.0 million pounds, respectively. Other countries taking Dominican leaf in 1949 include France, Germany, Gibraltar, Switzerland, French Indochina, Algeria, the Canary Islands and French Morocco.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Exports of leaf tobacco, 1946 through 1949

Country of Destination	1946	1947	1948	1949
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Belgium	5.9	3.1	5.2	6.0
France	15.7	7.3	1.4	1.1
Germany	-	-	0.3	2.2
Gibraltar	0.2	0.3	1.2	1.4
Netherlands	13.9	7.2	7.0	7.5
Spain	12.8	6.8	7.5	26.1
Switzerland	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1
French Indochina	0.2	2.4	0.8	0.2
Algeria	1.2	3.8	1.0	0.2
Canary Islands	0.2	0.1	1.5	0.2
French Morocco	1.3	0.6	1.6	0.5
Other countries	10.6	1.2	2.7	0.7
Total	62.5	32.9	30.5	46.2

Stocks of leaf held by exporters were reported by trade sources at about 2.0 million pounds on January 1, 1950, compared with approximately 9.0 million on January 1, 1949. Heavy exports during the last 6 months of 1949 resulted in the shipment of virtually all leaf available for export. As a result, exports of leaf during January 1950 totaled only 0.5 million pounds, compared with 4.1 million pounds in January 1949.

CEYLON'S FOREIGN TRADE IN TOBACCO DECLINES

Ceylon's 1949 imports of leaf tobacco were 35 percent below the 1948 level, according to the American Embassy in Colombo. Leaf exports in 1949 were 9 percent below 1948.

The country's 1949 imports of leaf totaled 1,036,000 pounds. This compares with 1,596,000 pounds in 1948 and 2,323,000 pounds in 1947. The United States supplied 734,900 pounds, or 71 percent of the 1949 total, and India practically all of the remainder. Flue-cured leaf made up the bulk of the tobacco imports from both the United States and India. In addition to leaf, Ceylon in 1949 imported 836,560 pounds of manufactured tobacco products. Beedies (a beedie is a small quantity of granulated tobacco wrapped in a leaf) from India made up over 98 percent of all manufactured tobacco imports.

Leaf exports in 1949 totaled 950,400 pounds, compared with 1,041,200 pounds in 1948 and 2,086,000 pounds in 1947. All 1949 leaf exports were shipped to India. In addition to leaf, Ceylon exported 45,870 pounds of manufactured tobacco products in 1949.

Reliable estimates of Ceylon's total production of leaf tobacco are not available. It is believed that about 10,000 acres are grown annually, principally by small farmers most of whose tobacco plantings do not exceed one-half acre. The 1949-50 harvest of leaf which is expected to enter regular commercial channels is estimated at about 1 million pounds of chewing-type leaf, 3 to 4 million pounds of cigar leaf and 250,000 pounds of flue-cured.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

CYCLONE DAMAGES VANILLA VINES IN MADAGASCAR

On February 5, 1950, a cyclone struck Madagascar's main vanilla-growing region, severely damaging the vanilla vines and the buildings in an area 25 miles wide, according to the American Consulate General in Tananarive. The full extent of the damage to the vines will not be known until the pods are marked in May, but it now appears that production will be reduced by at least 200,000 pounds a year for the next 3 or 4 years.

The United States consumes most of the world's production of vanilla beans, most of which are grown in Madagascar. Madagascar and the nearby Comoro Islands, produced a normal crop of 990,000 pounds of vanilla beans in 1948, but exceptionally dry weather reduced the 1949 production to about 390,000 pounds. The 1950 vanilla bean production in Madagascar and the Comoros now is expected to amount to about 770,000 pounds.

Stocks of vanilla beans in Madagascar amounted to about 660,000 pounds at the end of 1949, but heavy exports to France and the United States reduced these stocks to roughly 350,000 pounds by the first of February 1950. On March 23, 1950, vanilla bean stocks in Madagascar were estimated at around 225,000 pounds. Madagascar destroyed 1,400,000 pounds of vanilla beans in 1948 in an attempt to stabilize the market.

Exporters in Madagascar expect very good prices for vanilla beans in 1950. One important exporter has stated that he would refuse to ship any vanilla beans at less than \$4.50 per pound, f.o.b., for seconds-down.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S 1949 EXPORTS OF CACAO BEANS LOWER

The Dominican Republic exported only 46.2 million pounds of cacao beans in 1949, 22 percent less than 1948 exports of 56.7 million pounds, according to the American Embassy in Ciudad Trujillo. This compares with exports of 66.1 million pounds of cacao beans in 1947 and an annual pre-war (1935-39) average of 54.0 million pounds.

The United States took 99 percent of the Dominican Republic's 1949 exports of cacao beans, and the balance was taken by Puerto Rico, Italy, Argentina, and the Netherlands. The Dominican Republic's exports of cacao beans to Europe dropped off from 3,071,000 pounds in 1948 to only 88,000 pounds in 1949.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Exports of cacao beans,
1949 with comparisons

Destination	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States.....	50,688	63,926	53,506	43,877
Other America.....	324	879	128	198
Europe.....	2,655	1,329	3,071	88
Other.....	381	-	-	-
Total.....	54,048	66,134	56,705	44,163

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Reports of U.S. Foreign Service Officers..

In addition to its exports of cacao beans, the Dominican Republic exported 7,440,000 pounds of unsweetened chocolate in 1949, a substantial increase over 1948 exports of 2,525,000 pounds. Shipments of unsweetened chocolate from the government-owned factory, Chocolatera Sanchez, now are being made at the rate of 880,000 pounds monthly. The chocolate factory is reported to be encountering certain technical difficulties in processing cacao beans beyond the chocolate liquor state. If these problems are solved and foreign markets are found, operations will expand.

FATS AND OILS

INDONESIAN COPRA EXPORTS

CONTINUE DOWNWARD TREND

Copra exports from the United States of Indonesia during March 1950, reported at 16,541 long tons, although larger than the 10,089 tons for February, still were far below the average monthly shipment during 1949 of 25,284 tons. Exports during March were destined to the Netherlands and Western Germany.

Shipments during February 1950 were revised downward from 16,826 tons to only 10,089 tons, the smallest shipment since January 1948. Corrections on countries of destination show that the Netherlands received 6,589 tons; Germany, 2,500; and Switzerland, 1,000.

March deliveries to oil factories amounted to 9,725 tons. Exports for April are forecast at 24,600, and the forecast for the year 1950, excluding shipments through Singapore, is now revised downward from approximately 270,600 to 221,500 tons.

Copra buying prices in East Indonesia decreased on April 1 to 113 gulden per 100 kilograms for sundried, 108 gulden for mixed, and 96 for inferior grades. Converted at the prevailing export exchange rate of 13.22751 U.S. cents to the guilder the prices per long ton are \$151.87, \$145.15, and \$129.02.

INDONESIA: Copra exports, March 1950 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution					
	Average:	1949 1/	Jan.-Mar.:		March	
	1935-39:		1950 1/	1949 1/	1950 1/	
Canada.....	-	3,651	-	-	1,050	-
Mexico.....	12,614	-	-	-	-	-
United States.....	3,909	13,101	-	-	2,100	-
Belgium.....	8,053	4,000	-	-	2,000	-
Czechoslovakia.....	4,896	2,399	-	-	1,000	-
Denmark.....	72,375	5,000	-	-	-	-
France.....	12,748	-	-	-	-	-
Western Germany.....	64,674	12,842	15,000	3,000	7,500	
Italy.....	23,103	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	133,841	179,872	35,552	14,312	9,041	
Norway.....	31,810	3,000	-	-	-	-
Poland.....	1,422	1,500	-	-	-	-
Sweden.....	6,886	10,499	-	-	-	-
Switzerland.....	17	1,500	2,000	500	-	-
United Kingdom.....	412	40,922	-	4,000	-	-
Japan.....	6,180	7,000	-	-	-	-
Singapore.....	107,285	15,627	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa.	-	2,500	-	-	-	-
Others.....	17,160	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	507,385	2/303,413	3/ 52,552	27,962	16,541	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ As of June, total includes shipments to Singapore.
3/ February exports revised - see text.

Copra Board, Jakarta.

U.S. CASTOR BEANS IMPORTS DECREASE;
CASTOR OIL IMPORTS INCREASE

United States castor bean imports of about 145,000 short tons in 1949 were smaller than in the preceding year but castor oil arrivals of 5,300 tons were the largest since 1944. Brazil, the chief source of supply, accounted for 95 percent of the beans and 99 percent of the oil. It is possible that castor oil imports will continue to increase at the expense of beans because of a reduction in United States import duty on castor oil effective July 31, 1948. More than 2,800 tons of oil were imported during January-February 1950 compared with 340 tons in the same months of last year. Castor bean imports were almost one-third less than a year ago.

(NOTE: See LATE NEWS on Page 342 for articles on Argentine flaxseed exports to the United Kingdom, and low stocks of Philippine copra.)

UNITED STATES: Castor bean imports, 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 1/	1949 1/
North America:					
El Salvador.....	-	-	448	86	114
Guatemala.....	2	17	23	5	10
Haiti.....	133	2,928	3,304	2,896	2,743
Mexico.....	-	9	23	2	2
Others.....	9	-	-	-	3
Total.....	144	2,954	3,798	2,989	2,872
South America:					
Argentina.....	269	1,104	-	-	-
Brazil.....	61,456	108,696	133,208	144,648	137,912
Ecuador.....	6	394	1,217	2,571	2,319
Total.....	61,731	110,194	134,425	147,219	140,231
Europe.....					
	-	-	-	7	1
Asia:					
China.....	112	-	-	-	-
India.....	1,960	-	-	-	-
Indonesia.....	-	-	-	-	553
Japan.....	20	-	-	-	-
Manchuria.....	2,468	-	-	-	-
Thailand.....	-	-	180	1,040	842
Total.....	4,560	-	180	1,040	1,395
Africa:					
Belgian Congo.....	-	-	-	-	110
British East Africa...	-	-	-	-	247
Nigeria.....	-	-	-	-	112
Portuguese Africa.....	27	-	-	-	-
Total.....	27	-	-	-	469
Grand total.....	66,462	113,148	138,403	151,255	144,968

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

UNITED STATES: Castor oil imports, 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 <u>1/</u>	1949 <u>1/</u>
North America:					
Canada.....	-	109	-	<u>2/</u>	-
Mexico.....	-	174	143	-	-
Others.....	-	-	29	-	10
Total.....	-	283	172	-	10
South America:					
Argentina.....	-	441	329	-	-
Brazil.....	-	2,160	-	1,120	5,273
Ecuador.....	-	-	2,304	-	-
Paraguay.....	-	11	33	-	17
Uruguay.....	-	155	-	-	-
Total.....	-	2,767	2,666	1,120	5,290
Europe:					
Belgium.....	2	-	-	-	-
Italy.....	1	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	59	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom.....	9	-	-	-	-
Total.....	71	-	-	-	-
Asia:					
Japan.....	42	-	-	-	-
Malaya, Federation of:	-	112	211	-	-
Thailand.....	-	63	249	100	9
Total.....	42	175	460	100	9
Grand total.....	113	3,225	3,298	1,220	5,309

1/ Preliminary.2/ Less than .5 ton.

Compiled from official sources.

U. S. IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED OILS AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States imports of specified oils and oilseeds during January-February 1950 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Imports 1/ of specified oils and oilseeds,
January-February 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1949 <u>2/</u>	January-February	
				1949 <u>2/</u>	1950 <u>2/</u>
Babassu kernels	1,000 lbs.	<u>3/</u>	46,691	19,646	13,624
Babassu oil.....	" "	<u>4/</u> 346	3,565	1,025	1,676
Castor beans.....	" "	132,924	289,936	71,617	48,921
Castor oil.....	" "	226	10,618	677	5,633
Flaxseed.....	" bu.	18,470	148	78	2
Linseed oil.....	" lbs.	713	1,317	170	1
Copra.....	Short tons	230,000	428,230	42,462	71,786
Coconut oil.....	1,000 lbs.	342,717	115,051	16,999	21,404
Oiticia oil.....	" "	<u>4/</u> 7,673	8,940	2,148	110
Olive oil					
Edible.....	" "	62,811	20,050	4,599	7,277
Inedible.....	" "	35,448	3,124	27	157
Palm oil.....	" "	321,482	82,340	15,710	2,266
Sesame seed.....	" "	58,425	10,818	1,890	1,125
Tea seed oil.....	" "	13,159	141	36	0
Tucum kernels....	" "	<u>4/</u> 9,810	30,183	7,385	0
Tung oil.....	" "	123,190	64,968	20,509	5,484
Sesame oil					
Edible.....	" "	10,651	255	7	189
Rapeseed oil					
Denatured.....	" "	11,062	3,759	0	654
Herring oil.....	" "	30	15,897	3,350	4,283

1/ Imports for consumption. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Average of less than 5 years.

Compiled from official sources.

U.S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED
FATS, OILS AND OILSEEDS

(The following table substitutes for the one of the same title published in Foreign Crops and Markets of April 10. It presents revised data for lard, cooking fats and oleomargarine):

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,
January-February 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1949 1/	January-February	
				1949 1/	1950 1/
Soybeans.....	1,000 bu.	2/ 4,793	23,361	3,189	1,922
Soybean oil:					
Refined.....	1,000 lbs.	3/ (6,467	211,519	5,255	13,088
Crude.....	" "	" (147,062	147,062	11,111	59,876
Coconut oil:					
Refined.....	" "	3,789	4,550	843	1,131
Crude.....	" "	10,442	13,888	1,262	1,787
Cottonseed.....	" "	3/ 15,015	15,015	7,210	10,636
Cottonseed oil:					
Refined.....	" "	4,793	54,337	6,519	5,751
Crude.....	" "	1,515	62,272	6,373	17,530
Flaxseed.....	1,000 bu.	3/ 3,107	3,107	635	594
Linseed oil.....	1,000 lbs.	1,280	3,829	733	2,686
Peanuts:					
Shelled.....	" "	3/ (452	349,297	120,705	18,705
Unshelled.....	" "	" (452	8,543	1,395	558
Peanut oil:					
Refined.. ..	" "	3/4/(325	24,636	18	2,619
Crude.....	" "	" (325	42,344	40	3,920
Corn oil:					
Refined.....	" "	3/ (500	1,358	204	256
Crude.....	" "	" (500	5/ 773	4	70
Vegetable stearine.....	" "	3/ 5/4,765	4,765	1,919	499
Vegetable tallow and wax.....	" "	3/ 8,222	8,222	593	1,087
Fatty vegetable acids.....	" "	3/ 39,541	39,541	2,904	4,808
Oleomargarine.....	" "	180	2,009	471	379
Cooking fats.....	" "	2,111	22,741	757	1,988
Lard.....	" "	165,636	613,698	76,338	114,353
Tallow:					
Edible.....	" "	3/ (1,651	24,983	1,240	1,602
Inedible.....	" "	" (1,651	362,125	30,442	49,636
Neat's foot oil	" "	792	5/ 629	50	116
Stearic acid.....	" "	568	9,810	1,380	740
Other animal fats and greases..	" "	6,756	63,546	10,527	8,523
Fish oils excl. medicinal.....	" "	2,467	38,617	9,019	2,228

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Average of less than 5 years. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ 1939 only. 5/ Refined.

Compiled from official sources.

U.S. TUNG OIL IMPORTS DROPPED SHARPLY IN 1949

The United States imported approximately 32,500 short tons of tung oil in 1949, which was less than half the record quantity received in 1948. The decrease was partly the result of difficulties in getting tung oil out of China. That country normally provides from 90 to 99 percent of United States imports but supplied only 67 percent last year. More than one-fourth of the total originated in Argentina.

UNITED STATES: Tung oil imports, 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 ^{1/}	1949 ^{1/}
South America:					
Argentina.....	-	483	-	-	8,244
Brazil.....	1	62	-	737	-
Paraguay.....	-	27	-	-	66
Total.....	1	572	-	737	8,310
Europe:					
France.....	23	-	-	-	-
Germany.....	8	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	11	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom..	84	-	-	-	-
Total.....	126	-	-	-	-
Asia:					
Burma.....	-	-	-	34	-
China.....	56,609	17,464	60,552	64,789	21,721
Hong Kong.....	4,725	67	230	1,081	2,453
Japan.....	108	-	-	-	-
Manchuria.....	26	-	-	-	-
Total.....	61,468	17,531	60,782	65,904	24,174
Grand total.....	61,595	18,103	60,782	66,641	32,484

^{1/} Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the
U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1950	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
<u>Alexandria</u>		: Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....	4-13	: 99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 100.32	: 58.15
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: 98.65	: 57.19
Karnak, Good.....	"	: "	: "	: 78.95	: 45.77
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: 72.95	: 42.29
<u>Bombay</u>		: Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	"	: 784 lbs.	: Rupee	: 1/ 620.00	: 16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine.....	"	: "	: "	: 1/ 690.00	: 18.37
<u>Karachi</u>		: Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine....	4-12	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	: 71.50	: 26.22
289F Sind, S.G., Fine....	"	: "	: "	: 72.50	: 26.58
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine..	"	: "	: "	: 74.50	: 27.32
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		: Metric ton			
Type B.....	4-13	: 2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: 1/ 4000.00	: 37.55
<u>Lima</u>		: Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	4-12	: 101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: (not quoted)	
Pima, Type 1.....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
<u>Recife</u>		: Arroba			
Mata, Type 4.....	4-13	: 33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 185.00	: 30.44
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: (not available)	
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	: "	: "	: 225.00	: 37.02
<u>Sao Paulo</u>					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: 175.00	: 29.29
<u>Torreon</u>		: Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 241.00	: 27.48
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>					
Orleans av. Mid. 16/16"...	"	: Pound	: Cent	: XXXXX	: 31.98

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal - ceiling prices.

PARAGUAY EXPECTS
RECORD COTTON CROP

Preliminary estimates place Paraguay's 1949-50 cotton crop at 73,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from 179,000 acres, compared with 50,000 bales from 141,000 acres in 1948-49. The largest previous crop was 72,000 bales in 1943-44. Growing conditions have been favorable thus far but picking of the 1949-50 crop has just begun, and production could be reduced by unfavorable weather later in the season. In 1948-49 seed cotton equal to about 15,000 bales, or nearly one-fourth of the crop, was estimated to have been lost as a result of attacks by a fly known as Gargaphia torresii. The government has assisted private organizations this year in an effective campaign to eradicate this pest.

Minimum prices for seed cotton, guaranteed by the government for the 1949-50 crop, are 750 guaranies per metric ton (11.01 cents a pound) for grade 1, 700 guaranies (10.28 cents) for grade 2 and 620 guaranies (9.10 cents) for grade 3. A uniform minimum support price of 520 guaranies (7.88 cents) was offered for the 1948-49 crop and 425 guaranies (6.18 cents) for the 1947-48 crop. All prices were for seed cotton delivered at the gins.

Spinning mills in Paraguay are expected to consume 10,000 to 12,000 bales of cotton in 1950, compared with less than half that amount in 1948. The increase is made possible largely by expansion of facilities by two spinning mills, one at Asuncion and the other at Pilar. A large part of the cloth produced is heavy material for bags.

Exports during the year ended February 28, 1950, were reported at 37,000 bales, an increase of 17,000 over the exports during the previous year. The surplus from the 1949-50 crop, estimated at 60,000 to 65,000 bales is expected to be sold for export without difficulty because of the relative high quality of this crop, provided prices remain on a competitive world market level. Export prices fixed by the Bank of Paraguay as of March 7, 1950, f.o.b. Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Montevideo, Uruguay, range from 30.30 U.S. cents a pound for grade 1 to 9.57 cents for grades 7 and 8, with grade 2 (basic grade) quoted at 29.71 cents. These prices represent a reduction of about 1 cent (U.S.) a pound from the previous list.

Since the end of World War II, approximately 80 percent of Paraguay's cotton exports have been sold in hard-currency countries. A number of trade agreements have been concluded with countries of Western Europe and others are contemplated under which Paraguayan cotton and other agricultural commodities will be exchanged this year for manufactured or semi-manufactured products. As a result, only about 50 percent of Paraguay's cotton exports will be sold in hard currencies as the remainder, representing most of the increased production this year, is expected to be moved to Europe under the terms of the trade agreements. The value of cotton exports from this year's crop is estimated at (U.S.) \$7,200,000.

Under the provisions of a decree-law of November 5, 1949, the system for assessment and collection of export taxes was changed to require exporters to surrender to the government all foreign exchange derived

from sales abroad of Paraguayan products, instead of only 66 percent as was previously required. Exchange transactions on the open market are no longer permitted by law. Paraguayan currency was devalued on November 5, 1949, as a new multiple exchange system of preferential rates for various groups of import and export commodities was established. The buying rate of exchange for cotton sold for export was fixed at 4.92 guaranies to one U.S. dollar, compared with an official basic rate of 3.09.

Under the revised schedule of prices and exchange rates an export tax of 3-1/2 percent is collected on sales in U.S. dollars or in sterling, while a tax of 10 percent is collected on export sales in other currencies.

NEW MINISTRY OF COTTON GROWING CREATED IN SOVIET UNION

A new Ministry of Cotton Growing of the Soviet Union was created by a decree published in the Soviet press on April 6, 1950. The Ministry is charged with the management of cotton production on the collective and state farms; with the management of deliveries to the state; the ginning of cotton, and the construction and exploitation of the irrigation system in all the cotton-growing regions. Irrigation is a very important factor because the great bulk of the Russian cotton is grown under irrigation in Soviet Central Asia (Turkestan) and Eastern Transcaucasia.

The new Ministry is taking over the functions that formerly devolved on the Ministry of Agriculture which controlled the collective farms in the cotton-growing regions; the Ministry of State farms, which similarly administered the state farms, and the Ministry of Light Industry which was in charge of cotton deliveries and ginning. U.Y. Usupov has been appointed to head the new Ministry. He was the party head of the Uzbek republic, the principal cotton-growing region of the Soviet Union, and has been prominent in Soviet cotton administration. Parallel to the All-Union Ministry of Cotton Growing, similar ministries are being formed in the most important cotton-growing republics, while in the less important republics Chief Administrations of Cotton Growing under the Council of Ministers of Republics are being established.

The creation of a separate Ministry of Cotton Growing seems to be in contrast to the recent trend of consolidating the Ministries which are in charge of the various branches of Soviet economy. After the war, the control and management functions with respect to a number of industrial crops, including cotton, were taken out of the Ministry of Agriculture and placed under a separate Ministry of Technical Crops, and also a Ministry of Animal Husbandry was established. But after a brief and apparently unsuccessful experience, the 3 Ministries were again merged. Since Soviet cotton growing is geographically and regionally highly specialized, the creation of a separate Ministry in this case may in the long run prove more beneficial, though a certain amount of confusion may result during the initial state of organization.

The new move to create a separate Ministry of Cotton Growing reflects, on the one hand, the great importance of cotton in the Soviet economy. The Soviet Union, which had become self-sufficient as far as cotton is concerned in the 1930's, has acquired since the war additional spindle capacity in the occupied western regions, particularly in the Baltics. Moreover, the Soviets undoubtedly are striving to supply the requirements of the satellite cotton industries which, before the war, imported annually, on the average, about 1,300,000 bales of which about 600,000 bales were American cotton. On the other hand, the Soviet postwar program of expanding cotton production, which declined drastically during the war, has been only partly successful, and indications are that the cotton output in 1949 was still below prewar. There have been many complaints of inefficiency with regard to cotton growing in the Soviet press and official pronouncements. The establishment of the new Ministry aims at the speeding up of the Soviet cotton program and correction of inefficient practices.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

PERU TO IMPORT RICE

The Peruvian Government has permitted the importation of 33 million pounds of rice to supplement local production, particularly during June and July, before the current harvest reaches the market. The purchasing agent for the Government has arranged for the purchase of rice from Ecuador.

Rice imports were restricted during 1949 because of the carry-over from the bumper crop of 1948. A resolution was adopted on June 15, 1949, providing for the loan of funds for the purchase of locally-grown rice by the Superintendent of Food Supplies, who in turn provided the local markets with rice for consumers. These funds are to be used also for the purchase of the allocated imports.

The anticipated small rice crop of 1950 will probably necessitate further imports in the coming year to meet the domestic demand. Production in 1950 is estimated at 25 percent less than the 1949 harvest (May-August) because of a water shortage during December and January that caused a high percentage of seed-bed loss. Water supplies for irrigation also were late in the important rice-producing valleys and a scarcity of seedlings for transplanting reduced the acreage considerably.

PROSPECTS FOR 1950 BREADGRAIN PRODUCTION FAVORABLE

The present outlook for the 1950 breadgrain crop in the Northern Hemisphere is generally favorable, according to information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prospects this early in the season are, of course, based largely on the area, sown and condition of winter grain. The importance of winter wheat varies greatly in the different areas, amounting to about 95 percent of the total wheat crop in continental

Europe and in China, while averaging only about 5 percent of Canada's total. Winter wheat in the United States is about 75 percent of the total and in the Soviet Union normally about 30-35 percent.

Prospects for winter grain in continental Europe are promising, with little winter damage reported. Total breadgrain acreage there is expected to show some increase over the 1949 area, on the basis of preliminary reports.

The Soviet Union announced that its fall seeding plan had been fulfilled. Details of the plan are not available, however, and no increase of winter wheat acreage was reported, as in other postwar years. Weather conditions were not particularly favorable in the fall, as it was too dry. Some regions apparently lacked adequate snow cover until late winter. Soviet reports indicate that spring sowings are proceeding rapidly, and wheat acreage seeded by late March was larger than at that time a year ago.

Preliminary estimates for total wheat, now being harvested, in the Indian Union place the crop at about the same level as the 1949 harvest. The April 1 forecast of winter wheat in the United States is 764 million bushels, about 140 million bushels less than the 1949 outturn, principally because of reduced acreage. That would still be well above the 1935-39 average of 586 million bushels.

The forecast of 764 million bushels for the United States winter wheat reflects a substantial decline in prospects since December 1 chiefly because of continued dryness, aphid infestation, and acreage abandonment in the southern Great Plains. In most parts other than that area, acreage losses were relatively light, though rather widespread. Despite the decline of 120 million bushels since the December forecast the April 1 estimate indicates yields per seeded acre only slightly below yields last year. Acreage seeded to winter wheat was 53.0 million acres compared with last year's seedings of 62.4 million. Spring wheat acreage, based on farmers' intentions as of March 1, will be about 19.7 million acres, 12 percent less than actual seeding of spring wheat a year ago.

The outlook in Canada is still uncertain. The Minister of Agriculture advocates reduction of wheat acreage to about 24 million acres, 13 percent less than the near-record acreage in 1949. Seeding of the spring crop will soon begin, but farmers' intentions to plant are not released until May 11. Actual seedings will probably be influenced to a great extent by subsoil moisture conditions at seeding time. A shortage of subsoil moisture was reported over much of the wheat belt, in late March. The grasshopper threat was also considered rather serious.

Prospects are generally favorable in continental Europe. Soil moisture is reported abundant in France, and the outlook for the crop there is promising. Less fertilizer was used than last year, however, making a good outturn more dependent on favorable growing conditions.

Acreage seeded up to February 1 was about the same as the area up to that time a year ago. Some increase over last year's spring seedings is expected. Fall-sown acreage of breadgrains in Belgium shows a good increase, all in wheat. The condition of the crop in February was reported good, though slightly below the condition a year earlier. Both wheat and rye acreage seeded last fall in the Netherlands was smaller than for the 1949 crop. The condition of the grain is generally very satisfactory, with little winter kill reported.

Favorable weather in Italy, with satisfactory moisture conditions throughout the country during the winter make yield prospects promising. Acreage is expected to show little change from the 1949 area. Prospects for the 1950 crop in Spain were good, at last report, though not as promising as they were a month earlier. Subnormal rainfall during February caused some deterioration, especially in southern areas, but prospects were still much better than at this time a year ago. The breadgrain acreage is slightly larger than in 1949 with most of the increase in wheat. Preliminary estimates indicate little change in acreage in Portugal. Fall grains germinated well, and the condition is promising over most of the grain area. Conditions in north Portugal, a minor wheat area, are less favorable than in the important central and southern areas.

Fall grain was seeded under favorable conditions in the United Kingdom, and the total sown was larger than the corresponding figure for 1949. Unofficial forecasts indicate that the total acreage may fall short of the 2,500,000 acre goal by about 250,000 acres. Winter wheat is reported in good condition. Wheat acreage in Ireland is expected to be about the same as in 1949. The winter was mild, and condition of winter grain is favorable.

In Switzerland, breadgrain acreage is about the same as in 1949 with a slight increase in wheat and a corresponding decline in rye. The condition was favorable at last report, in February. Crops wintered well in Denmark and little damage had been reported in early March. Acreage of fall-sown wheat was about the same as a year ago, but rye seedings showed a decline of about 20 percent, from a year ago. Conditions were also favorable in Sweden in late March. Moisture supplies were abundant and the outlook favorable for a good crop. Breadgrain acreage is slightly larger than in 1949, increased wheat more than cancelling a decline in rye. Breadgrain acreage goals in Finland are slightly larger than the 1949 acreage. Small increases are set for both wheat and rye.

A slight increase over last year's area is reported for breadgrain acreage seeded in Western Germany. The increase in wheat more than balanced reductions in rye and winter mixed grains. The condition of winter grains is reported generally satisfactory, and if good weather continues another large crop is probable. Moisture conditions are reported satisfactory in Austria, and development of winter grains is

reported good to satisfactory. In general, however, the condition is not up to that of a year ago. Acreage of winter grains shows some increase over the winter seedings a year ago.

One of the dark spots in an otherwise promising outlook is found in Czechoslovakia where the condition of the winter grains is described as definitely under normal. Dry weather in the fall gave the crop a poor start, and very cold weather in late January and early February is thought to have caused some damage, since there was little snow cover. Scant snowfall throughout the winter provided little ground moisture, leaving the crop more dependent on spring rainfall than usual. Seedings of fall grain fell considerably short of the goal. This was especially true of wheat. Growers are expected to increase their acreage of spring-sown grains to make up for arrears in the winter seeded acreage and areas suffering heavy winter kill. Normally, the area of spring-sown bread-grains is relatively small in Czechoslovakia, however, and it seems unlikely that the full goal for wheat acreage will be achieved. Plans called for a substantial increase in fall-sown grain in Poland, and growers were to be supplied with increased amounts of seed and fertilizer. No information is available, however, as to the present outlook in that country.

Greece is the only one of the Balkan countries for which acreage figures are available. The area there is reported larger than in 1949. Fall and winter conditions were exceptionally favorable to winter grains. In Bulgaria winter grain was described as in very good condition in late January. No later report is available. Fall seeding in Hungary was accomplished on schedule, and rains following caused grain to germinate under favorable conditions, according to reports. Good snow cover was reported and no winter kill was evident up to the end of February. Completion of the plan for fall seeding was reported in Rumania. Germination conditions, however, were said to be only fair. General indications pointed to fall sowings not coming up to expectations in Yugoslavia. Snowfall was believed to be below normal there, but no winter kill was reported. Soil was becoming dry toward the end of March and rains were needed.

Seeding of small grains is just getting under way in the Southern Hemisphere. A prolonged drought in Argentina was relieved by rains in late February and early March. Preparation of land for sowing bread-grains can now proceed normally, and seeding begin on schedule in April.

L A T E NEWS

(Continued from Page 342)

The British Minister of Food announced April 12 that effective April 23 butter rations will be temporarily increased to 5 ounces and the bacon ration reduced to 4 ounces.

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A recent decree issued by the Government of Colombia requires local textile mills to buy the 1949-50 Colombian cotton crop as a prerequisite to obtaining import licenses for supplemental needs. The 1949-50 crop, estimated by the Colombian Government at 48,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross)--private sources place it at 41,000 bales--is considerably larger than last year's crop of 28,000 bales. Cotton produced in the Tolima area must be purchased by March 31 (1st crop), September 30 (second crop), and in all other areas by April 30.

Mill requirements for the year are estimated at about 125,000 bales, at least 80,000 of which must be imported. Import statistics are not available for 1948-49 but United States trade statistics show exports of cotton to Colombia in that year of 53,000 bales, representing more than half of the import requirements of Colombian mills. Exports to Colombia during the first 6 months of the present season amounted to only 21,000, but may be increased after all available cotton from the local crop is purchased.